

THEY LIE IN ASHES

New Orleans Leasing Dry Goods House Destroyed.

A LOSS OF SEVERAL MILLIONS

A Disastrous Configuration Garage Army
A. S. Schwartz's Merchant Building
Burned and Several Others.

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 18.—The most disastrous fire of a decade swept New Orleans tonight. More than \$2,000,000 worth of property is in ruins. At 10:30 the alarm was sounded for a fire that was discovered in the immense dry goods house of A. S. Schwartz on Canal Street. By the time the flames arrived the flames were bursting through the roof. The Schwartz building was consumed, and all efforts were directed to saving adjoining buildings.

At one time the fire seemed to be under control and confined entirely to the building in which it started, but the flames burst through into the piano house of P. Warin and then across to Bourbon street. Rankie's dry goods house was next and was soon a roaring furnace. Wagner's beer garden and the variety theater adjoining Rankie's were swept away as if a tinder box. The Bourbon street entrance of D. H. Holmes, large dry goods store caught fire and was also soon in ruins. Krueger's dry goods house on Canal Street burned next, a total loss.

The losses on stock as near as can be estimated now are as follows: A. S. Schwartz, dry goods, \$200,000; P. Warin, piano and musical instruments, \$60,000; Cleverina, drugs, \$2,200; Rankie, dry goods, \$75,000; Wagner, beer garden, stock and building, \$22,000; D. H. Holmes, dry goods, \$25,000; Kushn, fancy goods, \$75,000; Hoffman Bros., \$18,000; Leopold Levy, carpets and matting, \$60,000; Krueger, dry goods, \$30,000; E. Feilman, dry goods, \$30,000.

These losses do not include buildings, except Wagner, nor the many firms occupying the upper floors. Insurance is estimated at one-third.

NEW YORK, Feb. 18, 1:30 a. m.—The fire is still raging, but appearances indicate that it will soon be under control.

MRS. MINTON SEEKS FREEDOM.

The Wife of an Editor Charges Drunkenness.

PARKER, S. D., Feb. 18.—The divorce of Charlotte Nicholl-Minton vs. John McKim Minton, editor of the New York Illustrated American, was called a circuit court today, with Judge Smith on the bench. The regular panel having been exhausted and both plaintiff and defendant waiving a special jury, the sheriff was ordered to select a foreman from the audience in the court room. Mrs. Minton appeared in her court room accompanied by her mother, Edward Nicholl, and George Weston. Editor Minton was accompanied by his brother, Maurice Minton, and Attorney Safford, of New York. Two of the jurors chosen are carpenters, one is a bricklayer and the remainder are farmers. Editor Minton's attorneys made an effort to interject the charge of infidelity between Mrs. Minton and George Weston. This was overruled. Defendant was charged with failure to provide for the support of the plaintiff. She charged that she was compelled to sell her wedding ring and jewelry for his and her support; that he was in the habit of becoming intoxicated; that five days after the marriage he went on a drunken debauch, and that he was inebriated at the time of her mother's funeral one year ago. The deposition of Thomas F. Wicks for Mrs. Minton has with reference to an effort to secure separation from the defendant and the custody of their children about one year ago. The deposition of Annie Nicholl, a sister of the plaintiff, recited cruelty, assault and indecent epithets.

NEW YORK, Feb. 18.—Mrs. Olive Ecks, who became the bride of Prof. Clarence L. Ecks of Elizabeth, N. J., about three years ago, has gone to Detroit, rumor says, for the purpose of securing a divorce on the grounds of cruelty and tyranny.

LITZENBERG SECURES DELAY.

The Butler's Story in Canada Prolonged.

MONTREAL, Quebec, Feb. 18.—Tomorrow is the last day of grace allowed to William Litzenberg, the whilom nephew of Vice-President Hendricks, to show why he should not be sent back to Chicago, where he is wanted on charges of burglary and assault with attempt to kill.

It took considerable effort to arrest him. He was living under an assumed name in a disreputable house on St. Dominique street, and Detective McJaben and Carpenter had a fight for his possession of their man. When he was finally lodged in jail he immediately began to work some plans to escape. About two weeks ago he boldly walked into the office of Jailer Valley on the plea of asking if there were any letters for him, though it has since turned out that his intention was to get the key of his corridor. The jailer who knew of his escape from the Chicago police and had issued orders to keep a close eye on him, immediately turned him back to his cell, to which Litzenberg began to stow his treasures, the result being that the Chicago man was sent to the dungeon.

When this news reached the other prisoners, one of them asked for an interview with the jailor on urgent business, and during it disclosed a plot of all of them, headed by Litzenberg, to break jail. At his instigation the latter's cell was searched, and all the necessary appliances, including keys made out of old spoons, found to make a successful escape. Since that time Mr. Litzenberg has passed his time continually in the dungeon. His lawyer is N. C. St. John, known prosecutor under the Mexican government, and there is still doubt that he will be sent back to stand his trial at home.

Let us this afternoon a habeas corpus was applied for and that will prevent Detective Sergeant Andy Holmes of Chicago from taking him back tonight if he is intended.

TRIED TO KIDNAP THEM.

Strong Woman Attempts to Steal Two Children.

OTTAWA, Iowa, Feb. 17.—What would have been a case of kidnapping had not it been foiled by Sheriff McIntire today. A woman named Cox, claiming to be the wife of Post Master, came with alibi authority of an attorney, from her lawyer, J. Goss, visited the Lincoln County jail, where the condemned man was awaiting trial, and the condemned woman was awaiting trial.

She and her father were up in the depot and waited to take them home. The principal culprit had agreed to stay at night at Chappell's.

applied to the sheriff for aid, who promptly refused to admit her. She then approached a policeman, who endeavored to assure the children. The principal still refused to let the children go. The woman again sought the sheriff, saying if he would not admit her she would steal them. He promptly sent word to their mother and took the prisoners to be present at the closing of the school, when he found the woman ready with a conveyance to execute her threat. Mrs. Goss was divorced from her husband three years ago and the degree gave the custody of the children to the father. But they have lived with their mother ever since, visiting their father occasionally when they wished to. The mother has since married Thomas Talbert. She fears the strange woman will yet abduct the children.

ITS EFFECTS IN ENGLAND.

Outbreak of Cattle Disease in the North.

OTTAWA, Ont., Feb. 17.—A gentleman who arrived in this city from the Canadian northwest today states that, notwithstanding the efforts made to conceal the fact, a disease has broken out among the cattle in the northwest territories which is making serious havoc on the ranches, more particularly in the Peace river district, on ranches owned by the Hudson's Bay company. The disease in almost every case bears early symptoms of pleuro-pneumonia. The government will at once send up a veterinary surgeon to investigate. The government here is alarmed in view of the possibility of the outbreak of cattle disease in the northwest leading the British government to schedule Canadian cattle when landing in Great Britain, as is now the case with cattle arriving from the United States.

PACKED SOLID WITH ICE.

Gorge in the Allegheny River Threatens Valley Towns.

PARKER CITY, Pa., Feb. 18.—The ice gorge is still intact and the greatest alarm prevails. The citizens have tried in vain to cut a passage through the gorge. So far the efforts to blow it up with dynamite have been fruitless.

Superintendent Price says it is the worst ice gorge that he has seen in the Allegheny river since 1874. The river bed is apparently packed solid with layers of ice for nearly twenty miles.

There is a possibility that the gorge will form such a solid mass as to shut off the water channel altogether. If it does, Parker City and other towns along the river will be submerged. It would not take such a volume of water long to rise to the height of the gorged ice.

AWFUL CHANGES IN THE SUN.

The Great "Spot" Broken Into Twenty Huge Chunks.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—Observations made at the naval observatory today by Professor Fristy showed that the large spot hitherto observed upon the sun, which covered a space equal to one-sixteenth of the sun's surface, or an area of 140,000 miles long by 100,000 wide, has by some great cataclysmic operation been broken into about twenty smaller spots.

In addition to this, other spots have appeared, which are situated a vast distance from the original spots, and are evidently independent from it.

This new development on the sun's surface has attracted the attention of astronomers at the observatory, and will be closely observed by them.

Tricked by His Wife.

PITTSBURGH, Pa., Feb. 17.—John Loef, for today confronted his wife for the first time in ten years. She had him arrested for desertion. The circumstances surrounding the case are of an interesting nature. The defendant in the case holds divorce papers, which he procured in the courts of South Dakota, and he claims that as he is no longer the husband of the prosecutor, the case against him should be dismissed. In 1863 Loef had married life a burden and was forced to leave his wife when he was notified that she had committed suicide by jumping into the river. He was asked to defray the funeral expenses. The money was forwarded immediately.

Being anxious to return to his native state he left Dakota for Pittsburgh. Before leaving he applied in the courts of of Pennsylvania for a divorce and was granted one. He arrived here about two weeks ago.

In the meantime his wife, instead of having been consigned to an early grave, was saving what money she could to push her case against him. She had invented and carried out the suicide story by leaving her former place of abode and working out as a domestic under an assumed name. Loef paid no attention to his wife during her recital of their misery. Loef will offer the Dakota divorce in his defense in court. He is held under \$1000 bail.

Largest Woman in the World.

WINNIPEG, Man., Feb. 18.—Mrs. Chippewa, the largest woman in the world, died February 2 at Dog Lake Indian reservation, on the shore of Lake Manitoba, distant from Winnipeg a little over one hundred miles. The avoidousness of deceased was phenomenal. She tipped the scales at over seven hundred pounds a few days before her death. She was born forty-seven years ago on the shores of Hudson's Bay. She moved to Lake Manitoba with her parents seventeen years ago, where she has since resided. She was five feet eleven inches in height and a full-blooded squaw. The body was placed in a coffin seven feet long and five feet across. She was married to an Indiana weighing less than one hundred pounds.

Misuse of a Paying Teller.

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 18.—The jury in the case of Eugene Garcia, late paying teller of the Louisiana National bank, who was charged with embezzlement of \$100,000 belonging to the bank, today brought in a verdict of not guilty. The case is a very peculiar one. Garcia, during the trial, admitted that the money had been lost by him, but claimed that it had been paid over the counter through error. He says he made the first overpayment in 1878, when in cashing a check he paid out \$60,000 more than it called for. To whom he overpaid the money, however, he never could determine. scarcely a month later he paid out another \$60,000 too much. These two mistakes, he says, so unsettled his mind that from that day forth he has been in a dazed condition, during which time he has been constantly making mistakes of like character.

Preserving Dead Bodies.

Herron gives a remarkable description of the manner in which the Indians were accustomed to preserve their dead. According to his account, having dried the body, they prepared it over with gypsum and painted it so as to make it resemble life as nearly as possible. Then they put it in a hollow

house where Chappel was away from home. Mrs. Height, a domestic of Chappel's, testified that on one occasion she found Reed in Mrs. Chappel's room. She told Reed he ought not to be there. Reed told her to hold her tongue or she would be murdered. Mrs. Chappel testified that Reed wanted her to run away with him. Reed is charged with murdering Alexander Chappel last fall in order to continue his attentions unobstructed to Chappel's wife, with whom he was desirably in love. Chappel was poisoned with drugged whisky while at the Burgettstown fair.

GRAVEYARD POETRY.

Some Birth-Preserving Rhymes on a Serious Subject.

Nine-tenths of those who think they can write respectable poetry are mistaken, writes T. De Witt Talmage in the February Ladies' Home Journal. It is safe to say that most of the home-made poetry is an offence to God and man. One would have thought that the New Hampshire village would have risen in mob to prevent the inscription that was really placed on one of its tombstones descriptive of a man who lost his life at the foot of a vicious mare on the way to the brook:

"As this man was leading her to drink
She laid him and kill'd him quicker'n a wink."
One would have thought that even conservative New Jersey would have been in rebellion at a child's epitaph which reads thus:

"She was not smart, she was not fair,
But she with grief for her are swollen;
All empty stands her little chair;
She died of ends' watermilk."

Let not such desecrations be allowed in hallowed places. Let not postboys practice on the tombstones. My uniform advises to all those who want acceptable and suggestive epitaphs is: Take a passage of scripture. That will never wear out. From generation to generation it will bring down upon all visitors a holy hush; and if before that stone has crumbled the day comes for waking up of all the graveyard sleepers, the very words chiseled on the marble may be the ones that shall ring from the trumpet of the archangel on that day when the secrets of all hearts shall be disclosed.

NURSED A SICK DONKEY.

The Unusual Indulgence of a Pet-Loving English Woman.

An eccentric lady named Chamberlain died recently near Birmingham, Eng. She had considerable means and kept herself surrounded with animals of all sorts. For this purpose she bought two cottages, one of which she occupied herself and the other she gave up to her pets.

She conceived an attachment for a donkey belonging to a neighbor and which browsed in an adjoining field. The donkey's lungs became affected, and she invited him over to her field and attended to him.

The owner of the donkey then said: "If you are so fond of the donkey I will make you a present of it."

She accepted the donkey, which became so attached to her as to follow her about, says the Chicago Herald.

A favorite dog belonging to the husband having survived him was, in accordance with the previous directions, buried in his grave. When the widow died there was some disturbance and difficulties arose, the result being that the dog was removed and after her burial replaced in the grave.

BY RELAYS OF PONIES.

How the Mail Was Carried Across the Continent Some Years Ago.

People who receive letters from the Pacific coast in six or seven days admire the speed with which the mail travels across the continent, but forget that the present rate is not so much greater than that of the "pony express" as might be supposed.

The pony express was the first through route from the Missouri river to the Pacific in 1860 by a firm of government contractors, and the terminus were San Francisco and St. Joseph.

The distance traversed by the pony express was about nineteen hundred miles, and relays of Indian ponies were provided at station houses every few miles. A courier rode from one station to another, taking a fresh horse at each and leaving his tired animal, and when himself was too tired to go further gave the mail to another rider and stopped to rest, says the St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

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The distance was traversed by the ponies in about seven and one-half days, or at the uniform rate of about twelve miles an hour. It was the first through mail between the Missouri and San Francisco, and although the riders were often chased by the Indians, comparatively few fatalities occurred among the messengers.

Railroad in the Sahara.

One of the most important works of civilization now in progress is the building by the French of the Trans-Saharan railroad. It starts from El Gezira on the northern slope of the Atlas mountains, and, striking straight to the south, aims to find a terminus in the neighborhood of Lake Chad. The total length of the line when completed will be over two thousand miles. Already something like two hundred and fifty miles of track have been laid down, and trains are running regularly to the beautiful oasis of Birka, where abundance of water and one hundred and fifty thousand palm trees furnish the means of subsistence for a considerable population.

A Curious Mine.

There is a silver mine near Surhad, in Afghan territory, which has a curious history. Three men were sent from that country to Kabul, the residence of the amir, to be executed for an offense against the state. They told the amir that if he would let them off, they would tell him where he could find abundant supplies of silver. The amir deferred the execution and sent them under guard to Istanbuk, where they went to work digging. They and the men who were put to work with them dug for twenty days, finding nothing. The amir's officer told them at length that they could dig for seven days more and if they did not find silver within that time the sentence of death would be carried out. The next day they came to a very rich vein of silver, and now about a hundred men are employed in the mine, which was visited last summer by an English traveler.

Preserving Dead Bodies.

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house where they dug up in abundance. Then inserted, the corpse was kept in the house of its owners surviving relatives for a year, after which it was buried.

Cards of Bone and Hair.

The skins of some of the animals approach more closely that of the human than that of seals or whales when intercepting the loss or capture of their young. They emit a wailing and affecting cry, similar to that of a woman in deep grief. The cry of a wounded hare resembles that of a child in distress. Its piercing shriek can, on a still night, be plainly heard at a distance of more than 8 miles.

PLATINIZED GLASS.

Under Certain Conditions It Forms a Good Kind of Mirror.

One of the most curious inventions of this inventive age is what is called platinized glass. A piece of glass is coated with an exceedingly thin layer of a liquid charged with platinum and is then raised to a red heat. The platinum becomes united to the glass in such a way as to form a very odd kind of mirror.

The glass has not really lost its transparency, and yet if one places it against a wall and looks at it he sees his image as in an ordinary looking glass. But when light is allowed to come through the glass from the other side, as when it is placed in a window, it appears perfectly transparent, like ordinary glass.

By constructing a window of platinized glass one could stand close behind the panes in an illuminated room and behold clearly everything going on outside, while passers-by looking at the window would behold only a fine mirror or set of mirrors in which their own images would be reflected, while the person inside remained invisible.

In France various tricks have been contrived with the aid of this glass. In one, a person seeing what appears to be an ordinary mirror, approaches it to look at himself. A sudden change in the mechanism sends light through the glass from the back, whereupon it instantly becomes transparent and the startled spectator finds himself confronted by some grotesque figure which had been hidden behind the magic glass.

What wonders might not a magician of the dark ages have wrought if he could have had a piece of platinized glass!—*Youth's Companion*.

DANGEROUS WORK.

Men Seeking Employment in Life-Threatening Occupations.

The Medical Age contains the following abstract from the Journal of the American Medical Association: One of the curious features of modern life is the extent to which the most hazardous trades are overrun by applicants for work. The electric light companies never find any difficulty in obtaining all the men who work in factories where wall paper is made frequently joke one another